

**METHOD OF INDUCING DIFFERENTIATION OF DENDRITIC CELLS**

**ABSTRACT**

The present invention is related to compounds having general formula Z-OC (C R<sub>n1</sub>R<sub>n2</sub>) - CO-Z wherein Z = OH or NH<sub>2</sub> and n1 = n2 =1 to 8, useful for modulation of immune response by inducing differentiation of dendritic cells consisting novel class of amino acid derivatives (sulfonic acid / sulfate derivatives of naturally occurring amino acids, and their amides) of the general formula ZOC-CR<sub>3</sub>R<sub>4</sub>-CR<sub>2</sub>(NHR<sub>1</sub>)-COOH, ZOC-CR<sub>5</sub>R<sub>6</sub>-CR<sub>3</sub>R<sub>4</sub>-CR<sub>1</sub>(NHR<sub>2</sub>)-COOH, ZOC-CR<sub>7</sub>R<sub>8</sub>-CR<sub>5</sub>R<sub>6</sub>-CR<sub>3</sub>R<sub>4</sub>-CR<sub>1</sub>(NHR<sub>2</sub>)-COOH wherein Z=OH or NH<sub>2</sub>; R<sub>1</sub> to R<sub>8</sub> denotes H, SO<sub>3</sub>H, or OSO<sub>3</sub>H. In addition, the dicarboxylic acids and their amides ZOC-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-CR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>-COOH, where Z=OH or NH<sub>2</sub>; and n=1,2,3. The groups R<sub>1</sub> / R<sub>2</sub> =H / SO<sub>3</sub>H or OSO<sub>3</sub>H or CH<sub>2</sub>-SO<sub>3</sub>H or CH<sub>2</sub>-OSO<sub>3</sub>H and vice versa. The factors also contain different divalent metal cations such as Mg, Ca and Zn. The composition consists of varying amounts of the above amino acid / dicarboxylic acid derivatives or their pharmaceutically acceptable alkali / alkaline earth metal salts or their salts, the processes for the preparation of the aforesaid compounds useful for the differentiation and maturation of dendritic cells.

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